General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 447

_____SB00447GAE___031808____

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRONIC FILING OF CAMPAIGN REPORTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1   Section 1. Section 9-675 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2009*):

3   (a) The State Elections Enforcement Commission shall (1) create a
4 **[**software**]** <u>web-based</u> program **[**or programs**]** for the preparation of
5 financial disclosure statements required by section 9-608 <u>of the 2008</u>
6 <u>supplement to the general statutes</u>, and (2) prescribe the standard
7 reporting format and specifications for **[**other**]** software programs
8 created by vendors for such purpose. No software program created by
9 a vendor may be used for the electronic submission of such financial
10 disclosure statements, until the commission determines that the
11 program provides for the standard reporting format, and complies
12 with the specifications, which are prescribed under subdivision (2) of
13 this subsection for vendor software programs. The commission shall
14 provide training in the use of the **[**software**]** <u>web-based</u> program **[**or
15 programs**]** created by the commission.

16   (b) **[**The**]** <u>On and after January 1, 2010, the</u> campaign treasurer of the
17 candidate committee <u>or exploratory committee</u> for each candidate for
18 nomination or election to the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
19 Attorney General, State Comptroller, State Treasurer<u>,</u> **[**or**]** Secretary of

20   the State, judge of probate, state senator or state representative who

21   raises or spends **[**two hundred fifty**]** five thousand dollars or more

22   during **[**an**]** a primary or election campaign and, on and after January

23   1, 2009, the campaign treasurer of each state central committee,

24   legislative caucus and legislative leadership committee and any other

25   party or political committee registered with the commission that has a

26   balance on hand of five thousand dollars or more at any time after

27   December 31, 2008, and any individual or committee who makes or

28   obligates to make an independent expenditure and who is required to

29   file a report of such independent expenditure in accordance with the

30   provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 9-612 shall file

31   in electronic form all financial disclosure statements required by

32   section 9-608 of the 2008 supplement to the general statutes by **[**either

33   transmitting disks, tapes or other electronic storage media containing

34   the contents of such statements to the State Elections Enforcement

35   Commission or**]** transmitting the statements on-line to **[**said**]** the

36   commission. Each such individual or campaign treasurer shall use

37   either (1) **[**a software**]** the web-based program created by the

38   commission under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, for

39   all such statements, or (2) **[**another**]** a software program which

40   provides for the standard reporting format, and complies with the

41   specifications, which are prescribed by the commission under

42   subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements.

43   The commission shall accept any statement that uses such web-based

44   program or any such software program. **[**Once**]** On and after January 1,

45   2010, for any such candidate or exploratory committee that has raised

46   or spent **[**two hundred fifty**]** five thousand dollars or more during an

47   election campaign or primary, all previously filed statements required

48   by said section 9-608, which were not filed in electronic form shall be

49   refiled in such form, using such web-based program or a software

50   program, not later than the date on which the campaign treasurer of

51   the committee is required to file the next regular statement under said

52   section 9-608. The campaign treasurer of any such party or political

53   committee that is obligated to electronically submit such statements

54   under this subsection shall continue to do so, except if the committee's

55 balance on hand is less than five thousand dollars and such treasurer is

56 granted a waiver from such obligation by the commission.

57   (c) (1) The campaign treasurer of the candidate committee for any

58 other candidate, as defined in section 9-601 of the 2008 supplement to

59 the general statutes, who is required to file the financial disclosure

60 statements required by section 9-608 of the 2008 supplement to the

61 general statutes with the commission but who has not reached the

62 requisite five-thousand-dollar threshold of contributions or

63 expenditures, and (2) the campaign treasurer of any political

64 committee or party committee who does not have a balance on hand of

65 five thousand dollars or more at any time after December 31, 2008,

66 may file in electronic form any financial disclosure statements required

67 by said section 9-608. Such filings may be made by either transmitting

68 disks, tapes or other electronic storage media containing the contents

69 of such statements to the proper authority under section 9-603 or

70 transmitting the statements on-line to such proper authority. Each such

71 campaign treasurer shall use either (A) **[**a software**]** the web-based

72 program created by the commission under subdivision (1) of

73 subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements filed in electronic

74 form with the commission, or (B) **[**another**]** a software program which

75 provides for the standard reporting format, and complies with the

76 specifications, which are prescribed by the commission under

77 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, for all such statements

78 filed in electronic form with the commission. The proper authority

79 under section 9-603 shall accept any statement that uses any such

80 software program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*January 1, 2009*	9-675

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
Throughout the bill, references to "web-based program" were added
for purposes of consistency.

GAE   *Joint Favorable Subst.*